Unemployed persons in H.P.

3054. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the increase in the number of unemployed persons during 2001-02 in comparison to 2000-01 and the details of skilled and educated males/females who are still unemployed in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) whether Government have contemplated to control the increasing unemployment in the State; and

(c) if so, what are the concrete steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) The number of job seekers, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, on the live register of employment exchanges in Himachal Pradesh as on 31 March, 2001 and 31 March, 2002 was of the order of 9.00 lakh and 8.95 lakh respectively. The number of educated jobseekers (10th standard and above) as on 31 July, 2002 (latest available) was of the order of 6.97 lakh. Skill-wise information is not maintained.

(b) and (c) The approach to Tenth Plan focusses on providing gainful high quality employment to the additions to the labour force and it is listed as one of the monitorable objectives for the 10th Plan and beyond. The growth strategy of 10th Plan would lay emphasis on rapid growth of those sectors which are likely to create high quality employment opportunities and deal with the policy constraints which discourage growth of employment. Particular attention would be paid to the policy environment influencing a wide range of economic activities which have a large employment potential. This will also help the unemployed persons in Himachal Pradesh.